

Legislation, therefore, has become necessary and urgent as the Butterfly Pavilion is set to open on February 14, 2008. Although the Smithsonian has previously charged fees for films and shows, such as IMAX films, the National Air and Space Museum's Planetarium, and the National Zoo's Christmas Light special, the Butterfly Pavilion marks the first time admission fees are charged for a permanent exhibit.

The Smithsonian Institution had an estimated 24.2 million visitors in 2007. The huge number of visitors who come to the Smithsonian's 17 museums and art galleries shows that there are untapped sources of revenue from appreciative Americans and others if the Smithsonian had a first-rate private fundraising effort similar to that of the great museums in this country and worldwide. Our previously introduced bill, H.R. 4098, The Smithsonian Modernization Act of 2007, addresses the Smithsonian's shallow fundraising capacity by restructuring and expanding the Smithsonian Board of Regents from a board almost half of whom are public officials to a board consisting solely of private sector citizens with greater fundraising capacity and experience.

Today the Smithsonian's traditional free access to exhibits is under attack, chiefly because of the \$2 billion dollar infrastructure backlog. However, the fundraising capability of the Smithsonian infrastructure is clear in the recent opening of the National Portrait Gallery, according to Congressional Research Service (CRS) RL 33560, donors contributed funds for the new auditorium and roof over the courtyard.

The Smithsonian Modernization Act, not admission fees, provides the most realistic vehicle to raise funds for the Smithsonian without cost to the government or to the public. The Smithsonian has long prided itself on "free access" according to the CRS. Admission fees can bring only a token amount. Admission fees are not the answer for American taxpayers, who have already paid through the 70% that the federal government already contributes to this public institution. Federal taxpayers don't expect to pay again through a admission fee to a federally financed institution.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 5268, TO PROVIDE A TEMPORARY INCREASE IN FEDERAL MEDICAID ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGE UNDER THE MEDICAID PROGRAM TO STATES

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, last week I, with my colleagues Representatives FRANK PALLONE and PETER KING, introduced H.R. 5268, legislation that would provide immediate fiscal relief to States through Medicaid. The States of our Nation and the healthcare safety net are simultaneously facing a crisis. This is not the time for the Federal Government to turn its back. In addition to the broader economic stimulus package that we have approved, it is urgent that we provide States with resources to meet growing healthcare demands.

In 2003, during the last economic downturn, the Federal Government provided fiscal relief to States by increasing Federal Medicaid payments during five quarters. The increased Federal Medicaid payments helped States meet increased demand for Medicaid coverage and successfully fought off many additional and more extensive reductions in healthcare for poor children, the disabled, pregnant women and the elderly who depend on Medicaid health coverage. If the economic downturn continues, States will once again be forced to deny people Medicaid coverage and or reduce Medicaid payments to healthcare providers unless some relief is provided.

If we do not act, the decreased ability to provide health care could mean even more job losses, further exacerbating the economy. According to a 2005 study, for every \$1 million of State funds invested in Medicaid, 33 new jobs and \$1.23 million in new wages are generated in a year. In 2003, a Republican Congress and President agreed to the temporary increase in Medicaid payments. It was enacted through a number of bipartisan votes. We must once again come together to deliver as we did before. We need to move quickly to strengthen Medicaid, before the effects of a slowing economy cause people who need health care to be turned away.

HONORING ROB COGORNO

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rob Cogorno on his 25 years of service to this body.

Rob, I am one of the new folks around here, but in my relatively brief tenure, I have come to appreciate and have great respect for all the floor staff who keep this place running as smoothly as possible . . . especially in a room filled with wall-to-wall politicians.

You've been a great quarterback for the floor staff, and I wish you all the best. Thank you for your service.

HONORING RETIRING WEST SEN- ECA TOWN COUNCILMAN CHRISTOPHER OSMANSKI

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Christopher Osmanski, retiring councilman from the great town of West Seneca.

I have known Chris and his family for many years and I am proud to honor his dedication to effective public service for the residents of the Town of West Seneca. Few public officials love their town the way in which Christopher Osmanski does, and his public acts have always had the intention of making life in the town of West Seneca better for those so fortunate enough to live there.

While Chris's official service has come to an end, it is a virtual certainty that he will remain active in local civic affairs. That is a good thing, for the town of West Seneca is better

for the active public service of individuals like Christopher Osmanski.

I want to thank you, Madam Speaker, for offering me this opportunity to honor the public service of retiring Town of West Seneca Councilman Christopher Osmanski, and I hope that you will join me in offering to Mr. Osmanski this Congress's best wishes of good fortune and Godspeed in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING W.D. LEWIS FOR "CITIZEN OF THE YEAR" AWARD

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize community leader W.D. Lewis for being named "Citizen of the Year" by the Chandler-Brownsboro Chamber of Commerce.

A veteran of World War II and the Korean war, Mr. Lewis occupies his time today volunteering in his community. In addition to being an active member of the Kiwanis Club, Mr. Lewis mentors children at Brownsboro Intermediate School and helps the court appointed special advocates provide Christmas gifts to children. Last year, he raised enough money to give Bibles to 192 children.

Since moving to Brownsboro over two decades ago, Mr. Lewis has been a member of Leagueville Baptist Church and the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize Mr. Lewis for generously offering his time and talents to serve his community and for being selected "Citizen of the Year."

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE TOM LANTOS, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Congressman TOM LANTOS, our beloved friend and colleague, who passed away on Monday morning from esophageal cancer.

Believers in human rights and oppressed peoples around the world have suffered a terrible blow with the loss of TOM LANTOS. He was a tireless champion for those suffering oppression and violence and discrimination, and the world is quite simply a more painful place with his passing. Every time a human rights issue came up on the House floor, TOM was always there, speaking out for the voiceless.

TOM's experiences escaping Nazi concentration camps twice as a teenager and losing most of his immediate family in the carnage of the Holocaust cultivated in him a unique sensitivity to suffering. His compassion